

HARMONY FIRE DISTRICT

P.O. Box 360 – 194 Putnam Pike
Harmony, R.I. 02829

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was held at the Harmony Fire Station on Thursday, **February 16, 2012**.

Present: Chief Stuart Pearson; Moderator - Raymond Fogarty, Jr.;
Treasurer - Sandra Owens; Tax Collector - Kimberly Barber;
Board Members - Louise Michaels, Milton Huston, James Richards & George Kain
Attorney - Fred Mason, Jr.

Absent: HFD Association Representative – Eric Palmieri, President (excused)

I. – Meeting Called to Order: 7:03 pm by Moderator Fogarty. This reopens the meeting recessed at **8:50 pm on January 19, 2012.**

II. - Approval of the minutes from the November 16th meeting.

These minutes were originally presented at the meeting held January 19th and the vote was tabled. Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the November 16th meeting. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Milt made a motion to approve the bills. George seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

III. – Approval of the reports from the January 19th meeting.

These reports were originally presented at the meeting held January 19th and the votes were tabled. Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on these reports, as presented in the copy of minutes from the meeting. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

George made a motion to accept the reports as presented in the minutes. Jim seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

IV. – Vote on request to use building by HFD Association for event 3/11/2012 – Bingo Night and Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Fundraiser:

Kim stated that since last month's meeting this fundraiser might not be held now. The board decided to vote on this item just in case it was held.

Louise made a motion to approve the HFD Association's use of the building for their fundraiser event. Milt seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

V. – Adjournment of the meeting recessed January 19th:

Milton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. George seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

The January 19th meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **7:15 pm**.

VI. –Call to Order for the regular monthly meeting February 16, 2012:
7:16 pm by Moderator Fogarty.

VII. - Approval of the minutes from the January 19th meeting.

Moderator Fogarty asked the board if there were any discrepancies to note on the minutes from the January 19th meeting. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Milton made a motion to accept the minutes. Louise seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. – Approval of Bills:

A check register of bills to be paid was provided to all board members in their folder. Moderator Fogarty asked if there were any comments or questions on these expenses. If not, he would like to call for a motion to accept them.

Louise made a motion to approve the bills. Milt seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

IX. - Treasurer's Report:

Sandy presented her reports for the months of December and January.

Beginning balance December 1st \$508,108.76 and the ending balance December 31st \$447,607.31.
Large expenses during this month were Call Pay and Incentive Pay payouts. The Emergency Maintenance account has been corrected through Journal Entries.

Ray thanked Kim for the 3 month Revenue/Expense Comparison that she had compiled and enclosed in everyone's folder. Kim noted that in the Revenue line item of Other Miscellaneous Income (40401) currently has a negative balance of <-\$2,600.91>. This is mainly because revenue received from FEMA last year for flood repairs was not paid out until this fiscal year. Louise asked about the Heat expense (60510), why was it so high this year? Kim stated that the municipal rate that we locked in at with Reichert this year was \$3.599. Ray also mentioned that we have not transferred the \$30,000 to the Truck Fund yet this year.

Beginning balance January 1st \$447,607.31 and the ending balance January 31st \$420,759.55.
There were routing expenses during this month.

Sandy noted that the Third Party Billing revenue as of January was already about \$68,000. So it is safe to say that we will exceed our anticipated figure of \$80,000. Kim stated that when we had switched to the Dawson Group, they stated to expect about \$90,000.

George made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Jim seconded it.
The motion carried unanimously.

X. - Tax Collector's Report:

Taxes receivable balance as of today's date is \$132,106.77

Taxes collected in the month of January were \$9,245.53

Third party billing was healthy in the month of January, \$7,973.01

We have received a progress billing for the Audit from Geoff Malo. We are hoping to get it before tax season kicks into full swing, which will be much earlier than we received it last year.

George made a motion to accept the tax collector's report. Milt seconded it.
The motion carried unanimously.

XI. - Chief's Report:

Because the Chief was coordinating a Vaccination Clinic today from 4 – 7:00 pm at the Ponaganset High School he was not available to present his report. Kim presented it in his absence.

The Vaccination Clinic was for Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and Flu and the Gloucester MEDS Plan was activated for the event. The actual vaccinations were done by Wellness Company and Gloucester volunteers did the administrative work. When the Chief arrived later in the meeting he added that 22 were vaccinated at the clinic.

Chief Pearson has a meeting scheduled with Stuart Freiman regarding our Broadband Plan. There have been some changes as to how the project is going to proceed. He will have further to update next month.

The EMT Refresher Course started on January 23rd and will run through March 28th on Monday and Wednesday evenings here at the station. Lieutenant DeConte is the Instructor Coordinator for the course, with Captain Brackett and Lieutenant Farley as Assistance Instructors.

From January 24th through the 27th Chief Pearson attended an Operations Section Chief training from 7:30 am – 4:00 pm daily.

Then from January 31st through February 3rd he attended the New England Association of Fire Chiefs quarterly meeting in Springfield, MA. At this meeting he attended an International Association of Fire Chiefs workshop.

The Chief met with Gloucester Police Chief DelPrete throughout the last month regarding the Gloucester EMA Director position. They prepared the job description, help wanted ad and they interviewed applicants this past Monday from 5 – 9:00 pm.

On February 9th there was an officers meeting held here at the station. Topics discussed were:

- Duty Night Program – great feedback was received, now working on implementation.
- SOP's and SOG's - updates
- Fire Pro reporting – Kim & Lt. Farley
- Drill Schedule

The legislative grant sponsored by Senator Fogarty that we applied for last month was received in the amount of \$1,500. It will be spent as discussed at last month's meeting, on accessories for ActivBoard.

The repair work has been completed on the rescue. Repair work is now being done on Engine 21's foam system by Private Tom Malott.

Recently while repair work was being done on our boiler we were told we need a new expansion tank. A quote has been received. However, when obtaining further quotes we were told the tank was fine, so we are looking in the matter further.

The annual equipment inventory for the station was started last week by Deputy Chief Segee. Crew members not in the EMT Refresher class are assisting him during Monday night drills.

Private Alex Schlageter recently graduated from Springfield College with a Bachelor of Science degree.

A get well arrangement was sent on behalf of the board to Private Bob Pierce's wife Doreen, who recently fell and broke her pelvis.

Jim made a motion to accept the Chief's report. George seconded it. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. – Harmony Fire Department & Improvement Association Report:

There was no Representative of the Association available to present a report.

XIII. - Committee Reports:

- a. Policies & Procedures Manual – Milton Huston, Chair**
The committee continues to review. Time constraints have been holding us up.
A draft will be ready for the board's review at our next meeting. We are targeting the Annual Meeting for distribution.
- b. Broadband Work Team – Milton Huston & Steve Kut, Co-Chairs**
Addressed in the Chief's report.
- c. Property Review Work team – George Kain & Louise Michaels, Co-Chairs**
George and Louise plan to schedule a meeting to discuss their review.

XIV. - Old Business:

- a. Update on RIDOT proposed Roadwork in Harmony –**
No new information
- b. Pathway to Net Zero – Heat & Electricity**
No new information

XV. - New Business:

Ray mentioned that since the brush and a couple of trees have been removed he is worried about the danger of the hill out back. The board agreed that either having a fence or guardrail installed for safety needs to be addressed.

The Chief notified the board that he will be out of the country next week on vacation in Ireland. Everyone wished him a wonderful trip!

George wanted to discuss the allocation of money to the truck fund. We have an Engine out there that is a 1995 and will probably need to be replaced about the same time we will be ready for a new rescue. Sandy feels that he has a valid point and that we might consider increasing our annually budgeted

amount of \$30,000. George said especially with the rescues now coming under NFPA guidelines, because we know what that did to the cost of fire apparatus. Ray asked what a new Engine would cost and George and Jim both replied about \$400,000. Sandy stated that we now have about \$61,000 in the truck fund. Ray and George both agreed that private parties need to be approached for donations towards these purchases. The Chief said that although our trucks do not have a lot of miles on them, their age makes them obsolete, it becomes very hard to find parts to repair and maintain them. This is a subject that will need to be discussed further.

XVI. - Public Input: No audience.

XVII. – Executive Session: None called.

XVIII. – Adjournment:

Jim made a motion to adjourn the meeting. George seconded it. The motion carried unanimously. The February 16th meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board was adjourned at **7:47 pm**.

The next meeting of the Harmony Fire District Executive Board
is scheduled for Thursday, **March 15, 2012**, 7:00 pm, at the Harmony Fire Department.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kimberly S. Barber".

Kimberly S. Barber
Tax Collector/Secretary